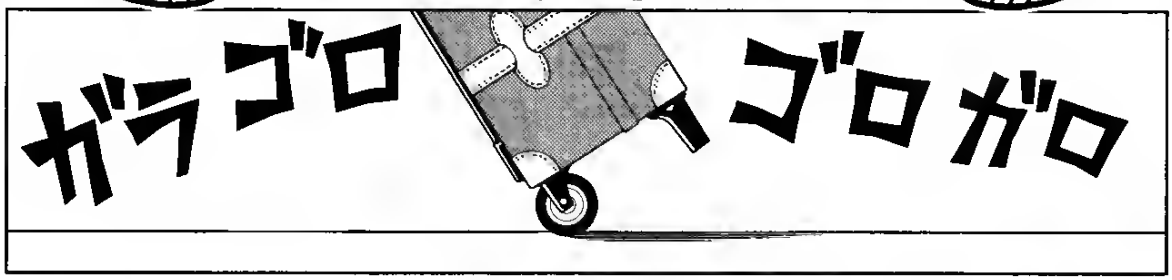
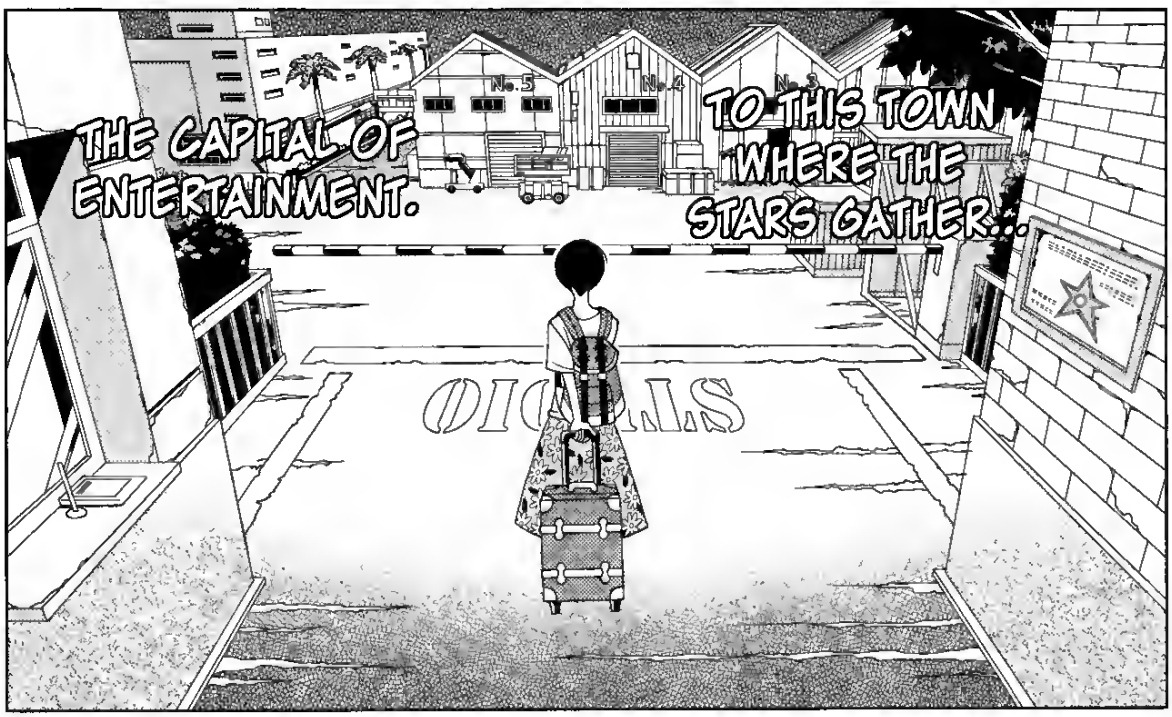




スタジオパルプ STUDIO PULP 久米田康治 Koji Kumeta

久米田康治

Koji Kumeta

スタジオパルプ

studio pulp

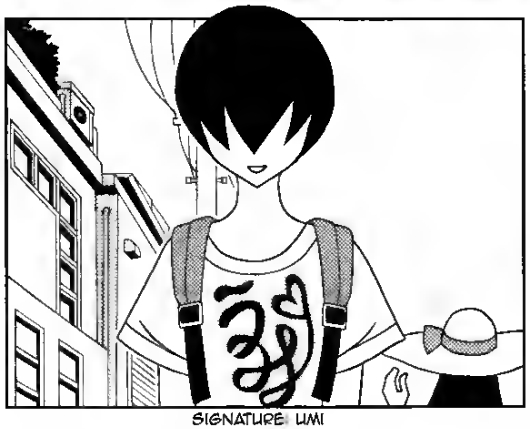
Act 1.

These are the studios.
Today, many stars should be gathered here.
EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK...
TO THE LEFT OF YOU, TO THE RIGHT OF YOU...

THE STARS...
ふ
THE STARS ...
ふ
THE STARS...
ふ
NOWHERE TO BE FOUND!
THE STARS ARE...

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE STARS!?

OH, MY, DID YOU SEE THROUGH MY DISGUISE?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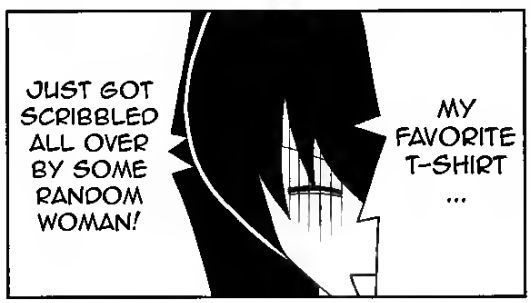
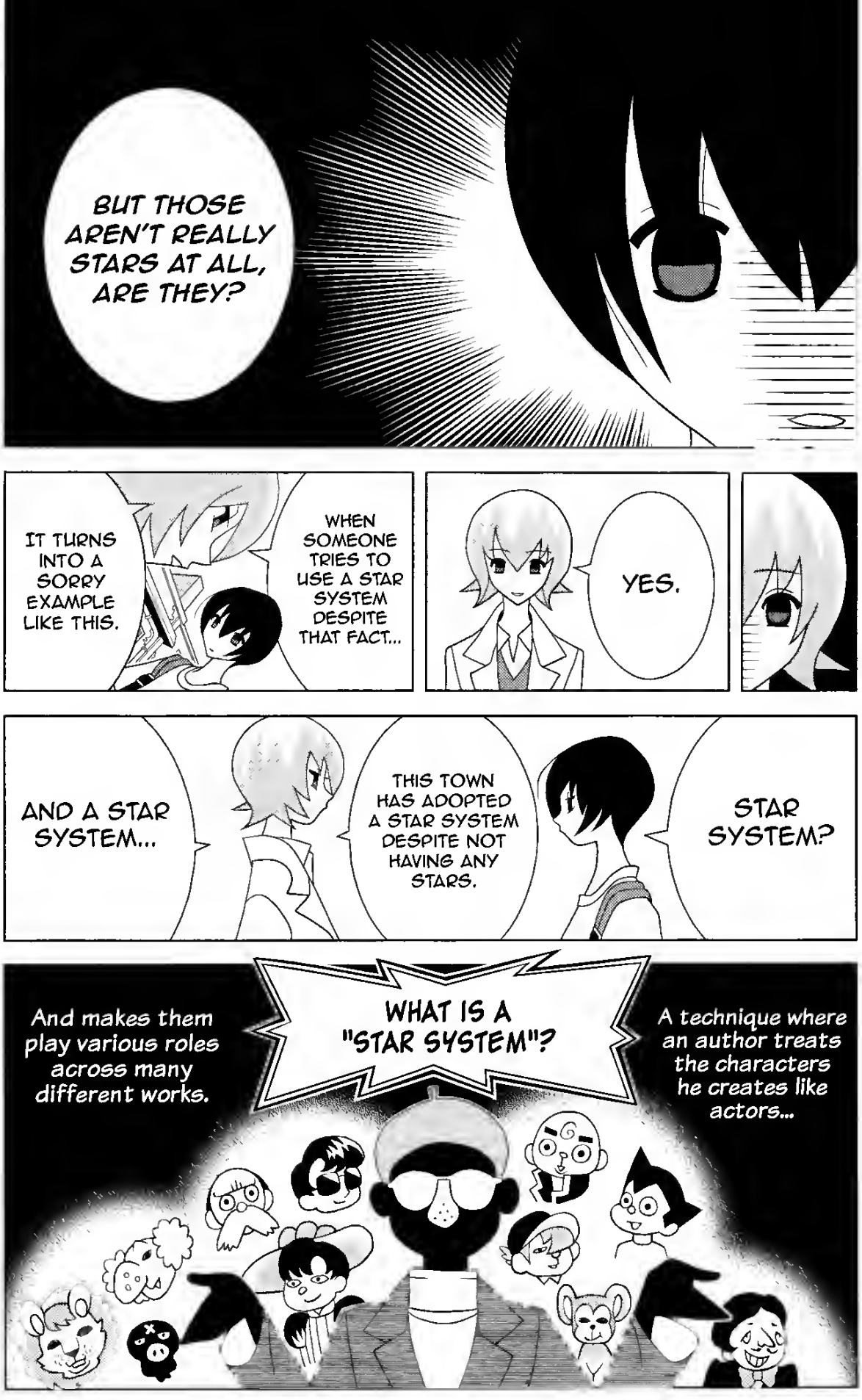

JUST GOT SCRIBBLED ALL OVER BY SOME RANDOM WOMAN!
MY FAVORITE T-SHIRT ...

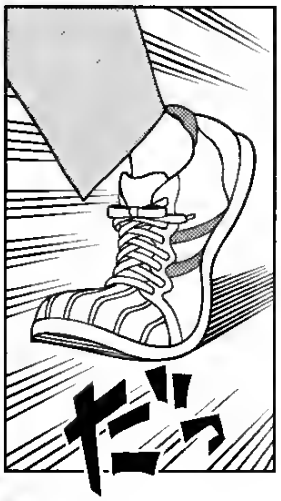
I'LL SIGN THIS FOR YOU.
さらさら

AH...
THERE'S NOTHING BUT NO-NAME BIT ACTORS!
TO THE LEFT OF ME AND THE RIGHT OF ME ...
YOU MUST HAVE COME TO THE WRONG PLACE.
NO, C-LIST STARS AROUND HERE.
THERE'S NOTHING BUT B-LIST...
YEP.
B- AND C-LIST STARS?


BUT THOSE AREN'T REALLY STARS AT ALL, ARE THEY?
IT TURNS INTO A SORRY EXAMPLE LIKE THIS.
WHEN SOMEONE TRIES TO USE A STAR SYSTEM DESPITE THAT FACT...
YES.
AND A STAR SYSTEM...
THIS TOWN HAS ADOPTED A STAR SYSTEM DESPITE NOT HAVING ANY STARS.
STAR SYSTEM?
WHAT IS A "STAR SYSTEM"?
And makes them play various roles across many different works.
A technique where an author treats the characters he creates like actors...

SHHH...
SO IT'S JUST RECYCLED CHARACTERS.

STARTS TRYING TO ACT LIKE WALT.
WELL, IT IS PRETTY HARD TO WATCH WHEN SOME THIRD-RATE...
ACT OUT THEIR MISCELLANEOUS STORIES.
THIS IS WHERE THE MISCELLANEOUS B- AND C-LIST CHARACTERS...
WELCOME TO STUDIO PULP.
SO CLOSE
NOW I'M FAR
★MAN★



Representative Works

- Kirishima, Konkatsu Yameru tte yo! (as Student O)
- Grand Nasushobara Hotel (as the guest in room 301)
- Katte ni Kaizou (as Katsu Kaizou)

YES ...
WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT TV.
AHHH... IT'S COOL TO ACT LIKE YOU DON'T WATCH TV THESE DAYS, RIGHT?
IS COVERED IN NO-GOOD STAR SYSTEMS!
IT'S NOT LIMITED TO US! THIS WORLD OF OURS...
LET'S GO TAKE A LOOK AT THE NO-GOOD STAR SYSTEMS OF EVERYDAY LIFE, SHALL WE?
Residential Quarter
AREI-EN
ギィイイ
BAR
SORRY SAORI
A STAR!

WHILE IN KOBE I'M KNOWN AS NAGISA.
IN KYOTO I PLAY THE ROLE OF SHINOBU...
I BELIEVE SHE'S TALKING ABOUT HER ESCORT NAME...
IT'S A STAR SYSTEM WHERE ONE PLAYER ACTS OUT MANY ROLES!
BUT THE SETS ARE ALL RECYCLED TOO.
BAR
SORRY SAORI
NOT THAT IT REALLY MATTERS...
IT'S REALLY NOTHING BUT RECYCLING.
ALTHOUGH, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL THIS A KIND OF STAR SYSTEM AS WELL.
Ushimitsu Inn
I THOUGHT I HAD SEEN THAT BEFORE SOMEWHERE.
THE BACK-DROPS, AS WELL.
CURRY
AREI-EN

どん
THERE'S ANOTHER STAR.
どん
BUT I KIND OF LIKE IT.
どんどんぱぐ
YOU'RE SO FORCEFUL ...
MOLESTER! RAPIST! CRIMINAL!
GYAAA! HELLO, POLICE!?
WHAT INCREDIBLE RANGE!
SHE PLAYS TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT CHARACTERS!
IN FRONT OF A HOT GUY AND IN FRONT OF SOMEONE UNATTRACTIVE...
②
①
YOU MEAN THE EDITOR?
WOULDN'T HE BE A STAR TOO, THEN?
TON TON

OF COURSE THAT'S A STAR SYSTEM.

For Best-Sellers

For Third-Rates

THE SAME PERSON PLAYS TWO ENTIRELY DIFFERENT CHARACTERS.

WHEN HE'S WORKING FOR A BEST-SELLING AUTHOR AND WHEN HE'S WORKING FOR SOME THIRD-RATE...

ASIDE FROM THAT...

HOW ON EARTH COULD THAT EVER BE THE CASE?

OH, GOOD. I THOUGHT IT MIGHT HAVE JUST BEEN A PROBLEM WITH HIS PERSONALITY.

A FRIENDLY ADVISER TO OTHER OTAKU...

BUT ALSO A MERCILESS JUDGE OF A WOMAN'S WORTH!

A-Class roperties, Age A, Tits B, SEX A, unity C

PLAYING A CEO AT A LISTED COMPANY IN ROPPONGI BY DAY...

BUT A MANSERVANT IN GOTANDA BY NIGHT!

PLAYING AN ARROGANT ASSHOLE ON LOCAL STATIONS...

BUT A QUIET HEAD-IN-A-BOX ON MAJOR TOKYO STATIONS!

- An outside cat playing different characters at different houses

Tama — Hashimoto

Nyanta — Saitou

Tora — Nakamura

- Chronically depressed girl at home

Francesca-chan in Harajuku

- No presence at school

Loud and sociable at cram school

- Economy car in Germany

Luxury automobile in Japan

- Kumeta-san (real name) in the manga industry

Kubota-san (fake name, works as a designer) at the hairdresser's

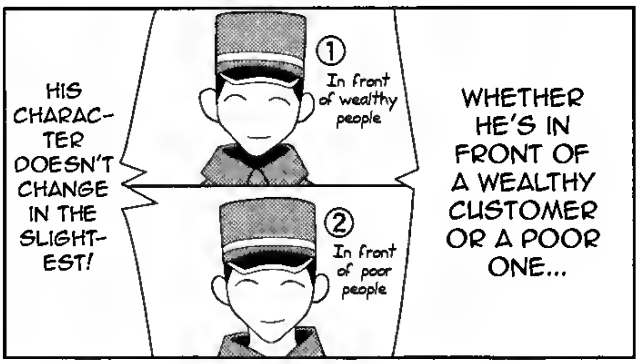
THIS WORLD IS COVERED IN STAR SYSTEMS!

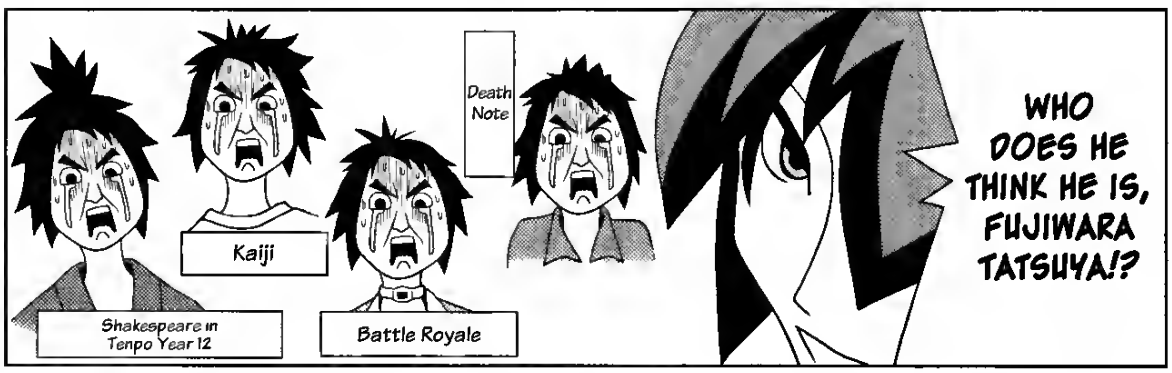
SO BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS ARE A KIND OF STAR SYSTEM (RECYCLING) TOO...

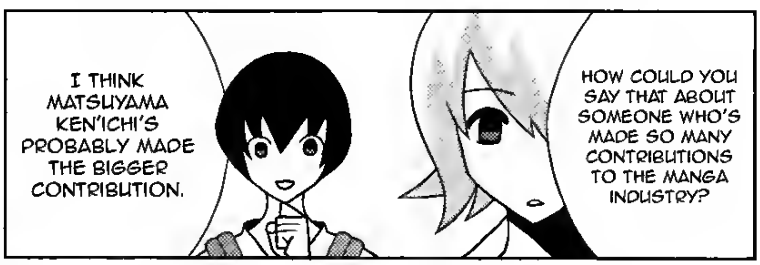
A HOTEL DOORMAN?
ON THE OTHER HAND, PLEASE LOOK AT THIS.

BUT THAT'S FIRST-RATE, FOR A DOORMAN.
HE'S A THIRD-RATE!

GIVING THE SAME PERFORMANCE EVERY TIME...


HIS CHARACTER DOESN'T CHANGE IN THE SLIGHTEST!
① In front of wealthy people
② In front of poor people
WHETHER HE'S IN FRONT OF A WEALTHY CUSTOMER OR A POOR ONE...


Shakespeare in Tenpo Year 12
Kaiji
Battle Royale
Death Note
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS, FUJIWARA TATSUYA!?


I THINK MATSUYAMA KEN'ICHI'S PROBABLY MADE THE BIGGER CONTRIBUTION.
HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT ABOUT SOMEONE WHO'S MADE SO MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MANGA INDUSTRY?

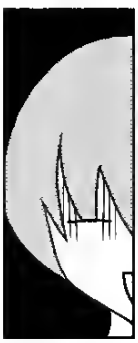
AH, THE WOMAN FROM BEFORE.

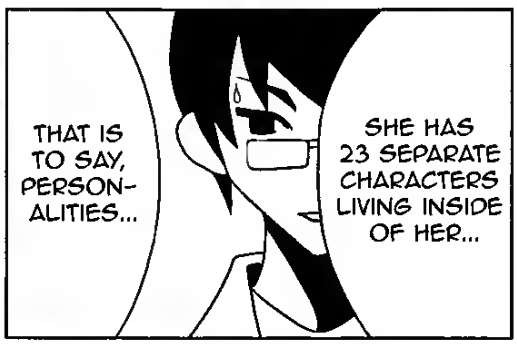
WHO'RE YOU?
MERELY A RANDOM PASSERBY.
THAT WOMAN IS ACTUALLY A FIRST-RATE ACTRESS, YOU KNOW?
A HEAVEN-SENT GIFT TO OUR STAR SYSTEM.
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT...
SHE'S REALLY FIRST-RATE?
BUT I HAD NO IDEA!
I NEVER EVEN SAID THANK YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR KIND AUTOGRAPH.
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE.
AND I DON'T BELIEVE I'VE EVER GIVEN YOU AN AUTOGRAPH.
BUT LOOK, RIGHT HERE...
I STILL HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
NG—
HNNNGGG!
EHHH!? WH-WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING!?

AH, YOU'RE THAT FAN FROM EARLIER, RIGHT?

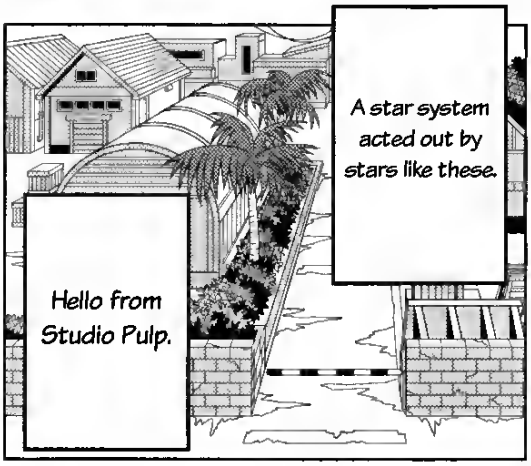
ART THOU SOME FOE FROM A PAST LIFE!?
IDENTIFY THYSELF, KNAVE!

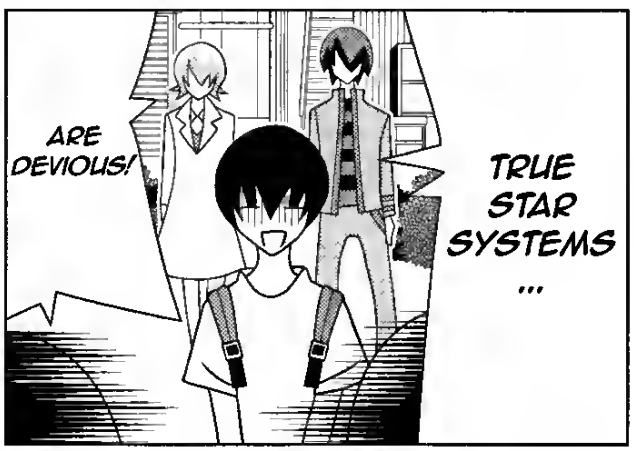
HRK
EH...? EHHH?




THAT IS TO SAY, PERSON-ALITIES...
SHE HAS 23 SEPARATE CHARACTERS LIVING INSIDE OF HER...

BASI-CALLY ...
WH... WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON!?


Hello from Studio Pulp.
A star system acted out by stars like these.


ARE DEVIOUS!
TRUE STAR SYSTEMS ...

Fin

Illustration by Koji Kumeta

Translator's Notes

- *Page 1, Panel 3: "Yakushamaru Hiroko"*
  From the actress Yakushimaru Hiroko. "Yakusha" means actor or actress.

- *Page 9, Panel 5: "Kirishima, Konkatsu Yameru tte yo"*
  "Kirishima, I'm Done Looking for a Wife!" from the novel and movie Kirishima, Bukatsu Yameru tte yo, "Kirishima, I'm Quitting the Club!"

- *"Grand Nasushiobara Hotel"*
  Probably from the film Grand Hotel. The Nasushiobara Grand Hotel is an actual hotel in Nasushiobara, Tochigi prefecture.

- *Page 10, Panel 7: "Bar Sorry Saori"*
  As seen in SZS chapter 193. The name of the bar is "Shaori," based on the name of Ai's voice actress, Gotou Saori. The character "sha" means "apology."

- *Page 14, Panel 6: "Matsuyama Ken'ichi"*
  The actor who played L in Death Note, alongside Fujiwara Tatsuya as Light.